

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

Specification Amendment

During a review of the specification, applicants noted a grammatical error. The above requested amendment to the specification is directed to correcting the error.

Preliminary Remarks

The Office Action dated August 1, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action") rejected Claims 6-7, 13-25, 36, and 42-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-16, 19-38, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Int'l Pub. No. WO 00/23874, issued to Rush et al. (hereinafter "Rush") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,397 issued to Ryan et al. (hereinafter "Ryan"). The Office Action rejected Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Ryan and further in view of a book entitled "Special Edition Using Microsoft Window XP Professional", Chapter 4, Section 'Displaying the Contents of Your Computer' authored by Cowart et al. (hereinafter "Cowart"). The Office Action rejected Claims 17-18 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Ryan and further in view of a book entitled "Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual", Chapter 3, Section 'Searching for People' authored by Sharon Crawford (hereinafter "Crawford").

Prior to discussing in detail why applicant believes that all of the claims in the present application are allowable in view of the cited and applied references, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided. The following discussions of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims

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of this application. Instead, these discussions are provided to help the United States Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

A system and method for providing feedback to a user by providing a processing indicator in a user interface is disclosed. The processing indicator represents to a user that the system is processing the expansion of a node in a tree view. Once the processing is completed, the processing indicator is removed, and the node is expanded with the respective sub-items of the node being inserted into the tree. According to one embodiment, the processing indicator is moved between different positions at selected intervals according to a timing component. By making the processing indicator appear to be moving between a set of selected positions (e.g., in a circle), the user is provided with an indication that the system is continuing to process the expansion of the node. According to another embodiment, the processing indicator is provided in the form of a magnifying glass icon overlay. The magnifying glass icon overlay may be provided in different positions that are changed on a timer (e.g., in one embodiment the overlay is moved between three different positions), so as to provide a visual representation of the magnifying glass moving in a circle. The circular motion of the magnifying glass indicates to a user that the system is continuing to process the expansion of the node. According to yet another embodiment, multiple processing indicators may be provided when there are multiple nodes being expanded. In other words, while an icon overlay is being provided for a first node, if a user selects a second node to be expanded while the first node is still being processed, a second icon overlay will be provided for the second node.

Rush

Rush purportedly discloses a software system comprising a navigational interface utilizing an hierarchical display of business documents based on a dominant-subordinate relationship between the documents. In conjunction with selecting a document, information relating the selected document is displayed. The displayed information can be custom defined by a user. The underlying data corresponding to the selected document can edited by the user

from the hierarchical display. Further, expressions can be created to alert the user of predetermined conditions pertaining to the selected document. The alert is displayed in conjunction with the hierarchical display of the selected document, but the expressions may be defined by data not normally contained within the selected document. The hierarchical display further comprises a visual rendering of predefined expressions describing the progress of work related to the selected document and each user can also define a unique set of progress of expressions for various documents based on conditions of particular interest to the user.

Ryan

Ryan purportedly discloses a method and system for generating command progress indicators. The method includes the steps of establishing, at a location on a display, at least one computer-generated graphic indicator associated with at least one computer executable operation in a first-state appearance, the graphic indicator having a first-state appearance and a dynamic second-state appearance, signaling the computer to conduct an operation, altering the appearance of the computer-generated graphic indicator from the first-state appearance to the dynamic second-state appearance while the computer is conducting the operation, and restoring the appearance of the computer-generated graphic indicator from the dynamic second-state appearance to the first-state appearance when the computer has completed the operation. A button graphic may be used as the computer-generated graphic indicator. The method further comprises the steps of establishing a cursor on the display, positioning the cursor on the button graphic using a cursor control device, and selecting the button graphic for signaling the computer to conduct the associated operation. When the button graphic is clicked and the computer begins executing the associated operation, the appearance of the button graphic will become a dynamic second-state appearance comprising the repeated steps of adding and subsequently removing a highlight color from the first-state appearance of the button graphic at predetermined intervals.

Alternatively, the appearance of the button graphic could become an animated graphic superimposed upon a background of the display comprising a version of the original icon graphic.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 6-7, 13-25, 36, and 42-43 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Office Action remarks that the phrase "such as" recited in Claims 6 and 13 renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. Further, the Office Action remarks that the phrase "may be" recited in Claims 7, 15, 21, 36, and 42 renders the claims indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. In response Claims 6, 7, 13, 15, 21, 36, and 42 have been amended to remove the aforementioned phrases. Further, some of the aforementioned claims have been further amended to clarify the claim language. As amended, Claims 6, 7, 13, 15, 21, 36, and 42 read as follows:

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the node is a folder, a computer, or a network domain.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein a second icon overlay is provided over a second icon once an associated second node is selected for expansion by a user while the expansion of the first node is still being processed.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein a node is a folder, a computer, or a network domain.

15. In a computer system with a display, wherein icons on the display represent nodes that can be selected for expansion by a user, a method for indicating that processing of the expansion of a node is occurring, the method comprising:

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providing an icon overlay over the icon of the node that has been selected by the user to be expanded; and
moving the icon overlay to different positions while processing is continuing to occur with regard to the expansion of the node.

21. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for providing an indication to a user that processing of an expansion of a first node is occurring, the computer-readable medium comprising:

an icon component for providing an icon, the icon representing the first node selected to be expanded by a user; and

an icon overlay component for providing an icon overlay, the icon overlay being provided while the expansion of the first node is being processed.

36. The method of Claim 31, wherein a second processing indicator is provided to indicate that the expansion of a second selected node is being processed.

42. The computer-readable medium of Claim 41, wherein multiple nodes can be selected by a user to be expanded, and an icon overlay is provided for each of the selected nodes while each of their respective expansions are being processed.

Applicants submit that the aforementioned amendments to Claims 6, 7, 13, 15, 21, 36, and 42 render the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection moot. Accordingly, applicants request that the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection be withdrawn and Claims 6-7, 13-25, 36, and 42-43 be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

(A) Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-16, 19-38, and 40-43

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-16, 19-38, and 40-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Ryan. Applicants respectfully disagree. While applicants disagree with the grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Claims 1, 7, 15, 21, 24, 25, 29, 36, 37, and 42 have been amended to clarify the claim language.

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Independent Claim 1

As amended, independent Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. In a computer system with a display on which icons that are associated with nodes are provided and in which a user may select a node for expansion, a method for providing an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of a node is occurring, the method comprising:

providing an icon overlay once a node is selected by the user for expansion to provide an indication to the user that the node is selected for expansion; and

moving the icon overlay between a plurality of positions at selected time intervals so as to provide an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of the node is occurring.

The Office Action remarks that Rush teaches "a method for providing an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of a node is occurring." The Office Action points to the "progress indicators" (Rush, pp. 33, line29) to equate to "an indication" and "to provide informational feedback pertaining to the 'selected' document or sub-document instance node in tree view (Rush, pp.33, line 31 and pp. 34, lines 1-2) to equate to "a method for providing an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of a node is occurring." Applicants respectfully disagree because the progress indicators 33 and 34 visually indicate certain information described in pane view 30 (Properties). The information visually indicated in the progress indicators 33 and 34 may be of particular interest to the user or predefined expressions describing the progress of work related to the selected document. For example, Fig. 1 has progress indicators 33 and 34 visually indicating a "due date" and "actual v/s estimated cost" of a part (part number WF202W) ordered by Coby Equipment Co. Fig. 7, on the other hand, has progress indicators 33 and 34 visually indicating a "credit limit" and "days late" for Coby Equipment Co. **The progress indicators do not provide an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of a node is occurring. Rather the progress indicators merely**

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provide a visual indication of certain information found in the expanded node (emphasis added).

Applicants agree with the Office Action that Rush does not teach that the progress indicator is an icon overlay. Accordingly, Rush does not teach "providing an icon overlay once a node is selected by the user for expansion to provide an indication to the user that the node is selected for expansion." As specified by M.P.E.P. § 2431.03, "to establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, **all** the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art." (Emphasis added.) *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974). Since Rush does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations, the Office Action has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

The Office Action equates "bar graph 35 as part of progress indicator" (Rush, pp. 34, line 3, pp. 33, lines 28-31, and pp. 34, lines 1-2) with "providing an icon overlay once a node is selected by the user for expansion to provide an indication to the user that the node is selected for expansion." Applicants respectfully disagree because the bar graph 36 with label 35 visually indicate the "due date" of part number WF202W due on 03/31/1998 found in expanded node for the Coby Equipment Co. The bar graph does not provide an indication to the user that the node is selected for expansion, but rather provides certain information of either particular interest to the user or a predefined expression describing the progress of certain information related to the Coby Equipment Co.

Applicants also agree with the Office Action that Rush does not teach moving the icon overlay between many positions at selected time interval. The Office Action remarks that Rush teaches moving the icon (Rush, pp. 8, lines 21-22) so as to provide an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of the node is occurring (Rush, pp. 33, lines 28-31 and pp. 34, lines 1-2). Again, applicants respectfully disagree. As noted above, the progress indicator (bar

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graph) does not provide an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of the node is occurring, but rather provides certain information of either particular interest to the user or a predefined expression describing the progress of certain information related to the selected document. The progress of the bar graph from zero to one hundred percent is thus a visual indication of certain information of either particular interest to the user or a predefined expression describing the progress of certain information related to the selected document and not of moving the icon overlay so as to provide an indication to the user that the processing of the expansion of the selected document is occurring.

The Office Action remarks state that even though Rush does not teach that the progress indicator is an icon overlay, Ryan teaches the aforementioned limitation. The Office Action remarks state that Ryan teaches providing an icon overlay (Ryan, animated spinning clock hand 58 superimposed on the icon graphic 43, Col. 7, lines 49-56) once a node is selected (a button bar 22 is clicked, Col. 6, line 20) by a user. Applicants respectfully disagree. As amended, the aforementioned limitation of Claim 1 reads as follows: providing an icon overlay once a node is selected by the user for expansion to provide an indication to the user that the node is selected for expansion. Col. 6, lines 30-35 of Ryan states in part:...that the progress of the command operation is indicated by changing the appearance of the **actual** button associated with that command...(emphasis added). In other words, the selected node (button before it is clicked) and icon overlay (after a button is clicked) are the same entity with the appearance changed. The node and icon overlay recited in Claim 1 are not different names of a same entity before and after the entity is clicked, but rather different entities.

With the foregoing in mind, applicants submit that Ryan, like Rush, does not disclose providing an icon overlay once a node is selected by the user for expansion to provide an indication to the user that the node is selected for expansion. Applicants submit that regardless

of whether or not Rush and Ryan are properly combinable, even if combinable, which applicants deny as discussed more fully below, Rush and Ryan do not teach, suggest, or describe, alone or in combination, the foregoing aspect of the invention recited in independent Claim 1. In this respect, the Office Action has again failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Hence, applicant submits that the §103(a) rejection is in error and request that it be withdrawn and independent Claim 1 allowed.

Applicant further submits that contrary to the statements set forth in the Office Action, it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of Rush and Ryan. In this respect, the Office Action has once again failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. There is no teaching or suggestion in Rush or Ryan to modify either reference or combine their teachings. Nor is there any basis for concluding that they could be combined. None of the references suggest the combination, and applicant submits that there is no basis for concluding that it would be obvious to combine the teachings of these references in any manner, much less in the manner recited in independent Claim 1. Further, even if combinable, which applicants categorically deny, the resultant combination, as set forth above, would not meet the recitations of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 2-5, and 7 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 2-5, and 7 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 1 is allowable.

Independent Claim 8

As amended, independent Claim 8 reads as follows:

8. A system for providing an indication to a user that processing of the expansion of a node is occurring, the system comprising:
a computing device having a processor and a memory;

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a display device communicatively coupled to the computing device;

wherein icons are provided on the display device to represent nodes, and once a user selects a node for expansion, the icon that is associated with the node is overlaid by a moving element which provides an indication to the user that processing of the expansion of the node is occurring.

The Office Action remarks that independent Claim 8 differs from independent Claim 1 only in that Claim 8 introduces an additional limitation of a node being overlaid by a moving element. In response, applicants assert that Rush and Ryan, either alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, lack the limitations common to independent Claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 8 is allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 9-12, and 14 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 8 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 9-12, and 14 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 8 is allowable.

Independent Claim 15

As amended, independent Claim 15 reads as follows:

15. In a computer system with a display, wherein icons on the display represent nodes that can be selected for expansion by a user, a method for indicating that processing of the expansion of a node is occurring, the method comprising:

providing an icon overlay over the icon of the node that has been selected by the user to be expanded; and

moving the icon overlay to different positions while processing is continuing to occur with regard to the expansion of the node.

The Office Action remarks that independent Claim 15 differs from independent Claim 1 only in that Claim 15 introduces an additional limitation of a progress indicator being positioned over the icon of the node to be selected to be expanded. In response, applicants assert that Rush and Ryan, either alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above with respect to

independent Claim 1, lack the limitations common to independent Claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 15 is allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 16, and 19-20 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 15 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 16, and 19-20 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 15 is allowable.

Independent Claim 21

As amended, independent Claim 21 reads as follows:

21. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for providing an indication to a user that processing of an expansion of a first node is occurring, the computer-readable medium comprising:

an icon component for providing an icon, the icon representing the first node selected to be expanded by a user; and

an icon overlay component for providing an icon overlay, the icon overlay being provided while the expansion of the first node is being processed.

The Office Action remarks that independent Claim 21 differs from independent Claim 1 only in that Claim 21 is an apparatus claim whereas Claim 1 is a method claim. In response, applicants assert that Rush and Ryan, either alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, similarly lack the limitations of independent Claim 21. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 21 is allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 22-25 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 21 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 22-25 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 21 is allowable.

Independent Claim 26

Independent Claim 26 reads as follows:

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26. In a computer system with a display, a method for providing an indication to a user that processing of an expansion of a node is occurring, the method comprising:
providing an icon overlay on the display to indicate that processing is occurring after a user has selected a node to be expanded; and
removing the icon overlay once the processing is completed.

The Office Action remarks that independent Claim 26 differs from independent Claim 1 only in that Claim 26 introduces an additional limitation of removing the icon overlay once the processing is completed. In response, applicants assert that Rush and Ryan, either alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, lack the limitations common to independent Claims 1 and 26. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 26 is allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 27-30 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 26 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 27-30 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 26 is allowable.

Independent Claim 31

Independent Claim 31 reads as follows:

31. In a computer system, a method for providing an indication that processing of the expansion of a node is occurring, the method comprising:
providing a processing indicator on the display to indicate that processing of the expansion of a node is occurring; and
after specified time intervals, moving the processing indicator to different positions to indicate that the processing is still occurring.

The Office Action remarks that independent Claim 31 contains all the limitations as discussed regarding Claim 1 and is thus analyzed as previously discussed with respect to Claim 1. In response, applicants assert that Rush and Ryan, either alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, lack the limitations of independent Claim 31. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 31 is

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allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 32-36 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 31 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 32-36 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 31 is allowable.

Independent Claim 37

As amended, independent Claim 37 reads as follows:

37. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for providing an indication on a display that processing of the expansion of a node is occurring, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a processing indicator component for providing an indication on the display that the node is selected for expansion;

a timer component; and

wherein after a user selects a node to be expanded, the processing indicator component is moved at specified intervals as determined by the timer component, the movement of the processing indicator component providing an indication that the expansion of the node is being processed.

The Office Action remarks that independent Claim 37 differs from independent Claim 1 only in that Claim 37 introduces additional limitations of a computer system comprising a timer component and the processing indicator component. In response, applicants assert that Rush and Ryan, either alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, lack the limitations common to independent Claims 1 and 37. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 37 is allowable in view of the teachings of Rush and Ryan taken alone or in combination. Further, Claims 38, and 40-43 depend directly or indirectly from independent Claim 37 and include all of the recitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 38, and 40-43 are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons that Claim 37 is allowable.

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(B) Claims 6 and 13

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 6 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Ryan and further in view of Cowart. Applicants respectfully disagree. While applicants disagree with the grounds of rejection cited in the Office Action, in order to advance the prosecution of the present application, dependent Claims 6 and 13 have been amended to clarify the claim language. As amended, dependent Claims 6 and 13 read as follows:

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the node is a folder, a computer, or a network domain.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein a node is a folder, a computer, or a network domain.

The Office Action remarks that as to Claim 6, Rush in view of Ryan teach the limitation of Claim 1 and Rush further teaches that the node may represent an element such as a folder and Ryan in view of Cowart teaches that the node may represent an element such as a computer or a network domain.. Further the Office Action remarks that as to Claim 13, Rush in view of Ryan teach the limitation of Claim 8. Furthermore, the Office Action remarks that the limitations of Claim 13 differ from the limitations of Claim 6 only in that Claim 13 is a system claim whereas Claim 6 is a method claim. In response, applicants assert that Claims 6 and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent Claims 1 and 8 are allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 6 and 13 are allowable in view of the teachings of Rush, Ryan, and Cowart taken alone or in combination.

(C) Claims 17, 18, and 39

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 17, 18, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rush in view of Ryan and further in view of Crawford. Applicants respectfully disagree. The Office Action remarks that as to Claim 17, Rush in view of Ryan teach the limitation of Claim 15. Rush and Ryan do not teach that the icon overlay is a

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magnifying glass icon. The Office Action states that Crawford teaches wherein the icon overlay is in the form of a magnifying glass. Further, the Office Action remarks that as to Claim 18, Rush in view of Ryan and further in view of Crawford teach the limitations of Claim 17. Crawford further teaches that the magnifying glass icon overlay is moved between three positions as controlled by a timer. Furthermore, the Office Action remarks that as to Claim 39, Rush in view of Ryan teach the limitations of Claim 37 and the limitations of Claim 39 differ from the limitations of Claim 17 only in that Claim 39 is an apparatus claim whereas Claim 17 is a method claim. In response, applicants assert that Claims 17, 18, and 39 are allowable for at least the same reasons that independent Claims 15 and 37 are allowable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 17, 18, and 37 are allowable in view of the teachings of Rush, Ryan, and Crawford taken alone or in combination.

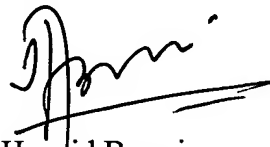
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and allowance of the remaining claims (Claims 1-43) at an early date are solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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